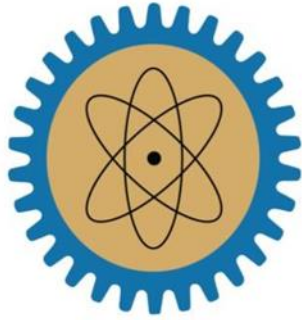




**BUSITEMA
UNIVERSITY**
Pursuing Excellence

**THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT TOWARDS
ACHIEVING FISHERIES SUSTAINABILITY IN THE NAMASAGALI
COMMUNITY, KAMULI DISTRICT**

BY

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**A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF NATURAL
RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
AWARD OF THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN FISHERIES
SCIENCE AND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
OF BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY**

SEPTEMBER, 2024

DECLARATION

I **KIIZA GIFT ELIZABETH**, solemnly declare that the information presented in this report has never been submitted for any degree in this or any other institution of higher learning. All the work here is original and was solely done with my hands.

Signed

KIIZA GIFT ELIZABETH

Date: 7th 09, 2024.

APPROVAL

I certify that this dissertation has been compiled under my supervision and that it is now ready for further examination.



Signed:

Dr. Natugonza Vianny

Date: 01-October-2024.

DEDICATION

This report is humbly dedicated to my beloved mom, dad, sisters, brothers and friends whose overwhelming support and encouragement have enabled the production of this work, Glory is to the Almighty!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to express my appreciation and gratitude to several people without whom this study would not have been possible. Special thanks go to my supervisor; Dr. Natugonza Vianny for his endless effort and guidance in supervising the production of this report. Sincere gratitude and appreciation also go to my family members especially my Mother Lydia Nakisede and my Father George Kiiza for your support. I also acknowledge and appreciate Mr. Musobya Moses for your guidance and the respondents who spared their valuable time in responding to the questionnaires. I thank you all.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION	i
APPROVAL	ii
DEDICATION	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
LIST OF ACRONYMS	vi
LIST OF TABLES	vii
LIST OF FIGURES	viii
ABSTRACT.....	ix
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY	1
1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT	2
1.3 GENERAL OBJECTIVE.....	2
1.4 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	3
1.5 RESEARCH QUESTIONS.....	3
1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY.....	3
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	3
2.1 AWARENESS OF FISHERIES POLICIES AND MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS BY THE LOCAL FISHERS	4
2.2 THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND COMPLIANCE WITH SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PRACTICES..	6
2.3 THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND THE ABUNDANCE OF THE FISH STOCKS	7
CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY	9
3.1 STUDY AREA.....	9
3.2 SAMPLING TECHNIQUES	9
3.3 DATA COLLECTION.....	10
3.4 DATA ANALYSIS	11
3.5 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY	11
CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS.....	12
CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	20
5.1 CONCLUSIONS.....	20
5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS	21
REFERENCES	22
APPENDICES	24

LIST OF ACRONYMS

MSY	Maximum Sustainable Yield
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
UN	United Nations
CBF	Community-Based Fisheries
BMU	Beach Management Unit
EAC	East African Community
FPU	Fisheries Protection Unit
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries
NGO	Non- Governmental Organization
SSF	Small-Scale Fisheries
SFTG	Subsistence Fisheries Task Group
MPA	Marine Protected Areas
CFO	Community Fisheries Organisations
MTF	Multi-sector Task Force
UPDF	Uganda People’s Defense Force
FMP	Fisheries Management Plan
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Scientists

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 showing percentage frequency of respondents with understanding of gear size restriction	13
Table 2 showing Percentage frequency of respondents with understanding of the fish size restriction policy	14
Table 3 Showing percentage frequency of respondents with understanding of the fishing license policy.....	14
Table 4 percentage frequency of the rate of understanding the closed fishing season policy	15
Table 5 showing percentage frequency on the attendance of workshops	15
Table 6 Showing percentage frequency on the rate of receiving updates on policies	16
Table 7 Showing relationship between awareness and compliance with sustainable fisheries.....	17
Table 8 showing relationship between fisheries management strategies and fish stock abundance	18

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1 showing the location of the study sites.....	10
Figure 2 showing the interaction with fishermen at Nsagabiyire landing site.....	31
Figure 3 heading for data collection at Kabeto landing site	31

ABSTRACT

The study was set to assess the role of community awareness and engagement towards achieving fisheries sustainability, a case of the selected landing sites of Namasagali sub-county in Kamuli district, Uganda. The study aimed at assessing the level of awareness of existing fisheries policies and management regulations by the local fishers in Namasagali community, examining the relationship between levels of community awareness and compliance with sustainable fisheries management practices and examining the relationship between the current fisheries management practices and the abundance of the fish stocks. The study used a target population of 60 respondents from three selected landing sites. Interviews were also conducted with the heads of the local fishers at the selected landing sites. Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics, chi-square tests and Pearson correlation coefficient. The results showed that the local fishers were mostly aware of the gear size restrictions, followed by the fish size restrictions and the fishing license requirements respectively, while very few respondents were aware of the closed fishing season's regulation and none of the respondents was aware of the existence of the no-fishing zones management regulation. Using chi-square tests, the results showed that the awareness of fisheries policies and management is significantly associated with the compliance to the fisheries policies and regulations ($X^2 = 9.38$; $df=3$; $p=0.025$). The study highlighted that the major contributors to fish stock decline over time were due to use of illegal gears and over fishing. This reflected that there is positive correlation between fisheries management practices and fish stock abundance. The study then concluded that, although most of the respondents were aware of the existence of the fisheries policies and regulations, they lack a deeper understanding of the specific details, implications and procedures with in those policies. The findings suggest that the awareness strategies could be able to raise general knowledge of the fisheries policies and regulations but have not adequately communicated the specifics of the policies and regulations. The study demonstrates a significant positive correlation between the level of awareness and the level of compliance with the sustainable fisheries practices. Well-enforced measures such as gear restrictions, seasonal closures, marine protected areas (MPAs), and community-based management (BMUs) have led to notable recoveries in fish stocks, although challenges remain, particularly with illegal fishing and enforcement gaps. The study then recommends that there is a need to revise the content and methods of the awareness initiatives by considering involving the community in the design of these programs to ensure they address local needs and concerns. This could include more interactive or participatory approaches, such as workshops or community discussions that engage people more directly.